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What next for Jeane?

Amidst all the rejoicing over President Reagan's re-election, I would like to introduce a rather somber even querulous note.

What's going to happen to that great lady who has graced the Reagan administration for the

last four years, Dr. Jeane J. Kirkpatrick?

As the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, she fought the Soviet Union and its surrogates with a moral dedication not seen since the days of Daniel Patrick Moynihan who held the same post until he was fired by President Gerald Ford and Secretary of State Henry Kissinger.

What will be Jeane Kirkpatrick's reward in the next four years? Exile? That is, back to the U.S. mission at the United Nations? She has told friends she will not accept that assignment again. Enough is enough.

Arnold Beichman, a visiting scholar at the Hoover Institution, has covered the United Nations as a foreign correspondent.

Well, how about National Security Adviser to the president in the event the incumbent, Robert McFarlane, leaves for another administration post? Not a chance. Secretary of State George Shultz would probably resign rather than see Jeane Kirkpatrick take a job so close to the presidential ear.

How about secretary of state? Great idea, but Mr. Shultz isn't resigning.

How about director of Central Intelligence, the post now held by William J. Casey? Fine, but Mr. Casey isn't resigning either. President Reagan has a lot of confidence in Mr. Casey. It will also be Mr. Casey's opportunity in the next four years to see if he can overwhelm the CIA

bureaucracy, which has hamstrung the agency in fulfilling presidential directives. It is even possible that the CIA No. 2 man, John McMahon, may retire in due course. Anyway, CIA is out. State is out, the NSC post is out. What's left? Replace Secretary of Labor Ray Donovan in the second Reagan administration? Not a chance.

So here is Jeane Kirkpatrick, who has fought the good fight for the president and for America, with no place to go except back to academic life, which is where she came from. It's not a bad life for her, but how about her admirers, those like me, who think that for Jeane Kirkpatrick to be forced out of the administration would be America's loss?

Right now, she is part of a triumvirate headed by Defense Secretary Weinberger, and including CIA

Director Casey, which is unyielding in its opposition to making any kind of deal with Daniel Ortega's Marxist-Leninist dictatorship over Nicaragua. Opposing the Weinberger-Casey-Kirkpatrick troika reportedly are Secretary of State Shultz, Robert McFarlane, and Langhorne Motley, assistant secretary of state for Latin America, who keeps coming up with "draft treaties" one after another for Nicaragua.

For anyone who follows the struggle for power in Washington, at the core of which is always a struggle for the soul of the president, the departure of Jeane Kirkpatrick would be a triumph for those who want President Reagan to confine his comments about "evil empires" only to South Africa and Chile and to be kind to the Soviets.

The next four years will be among the most critical in the nation's history, because Soviet power and audacity is growing, while its economy approaches what would appear to be a disastrous climax. President Reagan will need all the help he can get, and he has no more loyal friend and admirer than the lady who is made of the same stuff as Margaret Thatcher.

The country and, indeed, the Free World can't afford to lose Jeane Kirkpatrick. It's up to President Reagan.